

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE ADDRESSES MID-ATLANTIC LUNCHEON CLUB

1. ON DECEMBER 16 AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE MADE HIS LAST PUBLIC APPEARANCE OF 1976 AS THE GUEST FOR THE BRUSSELS CHAPTER OF THE PRESTIGIOUS MID-ATLANTIC LUNCHEON CLUB WHERE HE SPOKE INFORMALLY ABOUT NATO AND ANSWERED MEMBERS' QUESTIONS.

2. APPROXIMATELY 30 MEMBERS OF THE CLUB WERE AT THE LUNCH INCLUDING TWO FORMER BELGIAN CABINET MINISTERS AND THE LEADING COLUMNIST OF LE SOIT, BRUSSELS' TOP DAILY, LEOPOLD UNGAR.

3. AFTER BRIEF OPENING REMARKS DEALING WITH THE STATE OF THE ALLIANCE, THE AMBASSADOR FIELDDED QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE EFFECT OF THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE ON THE ALLIANCE, THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF COMMUNIST OR COMMUNIST-DOMINATED GOVERNMENTS IN NATO COUNTRIES AND THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF NATO WITH REGARD TO OTHER EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS UNCLASSIFIED

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OECD AND THE EEC.

4. THE GROUP SEEMED PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S URGENT PLEA THAT MORE BE DONE TO EDUCATE THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS AND LABOR UNION GROUPS ABOUT NATO AS WELL AS BY HIS STRONG ADMONITION THAT ALLIANCE MEMBERS MAINTAIN THE NECESSARY BALANCE BETWEEN DEFENSE BUDGETS AND OUTLAYS FOR SOCIAL PROGRAMS EVEN IN THE FACE OF SEVERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE CITED THE INCREASE OF

7.7 PERCENT IN EAST GERMANY'S 1977 DEFENSE BUDGET REPORTED IN THE DECEMBER 16 FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, ALONG WITH THE GENERAL WARSAW PACT THREAT, TO BUTTRESS HIS EXHORTATION.

5. THE MID-ATLANTIC LUNCHEON CLUB GROUP HAS CHAPTERS IN LONDON, PARIS, GENEVA, NEW YORK, WASHINGTON AND SETTLE, WASHINGTON IN ADDITION TO BRUSSELS. ITS INFLUENCE HAS BEEN INCREASING OVER THE PAST YEARS AS AN INFORMAL FORUM WHERE ATLANTIC-MINDED LEADERS FROM BUSINESS AND POLITICAL LIFE AS WELL AS THE MEDIA CAN MEET WITH DISTINGUISHED INTERNATIONAL PERSONALITIES FOR NO-HOLDS-BARRED DISCUSSION.

6. WITH HIS APPEARANCE TODAY, AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE CONCLUDED AN INTENSE FALL SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING WHICH HAS TAKEN HIM TO HAMBURG, ROME, MUNICH, STUTTGART, TWICE TO LONDON AND BONN, AND DUESSELDORF, IN ADDITION TO ADDRESSING SEVERAL VISITING TOUR GROUPS TO DATE HERE IN BRUSSELS. ALREADY FOR JANUARY 1977 HE HAS FOUR MORE PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS SCHEDULED INCLUDING TRIPS TO ITALY AND NORWAY. STRAUZ-HUPE

UNCLASSIFIED

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